

□ 1859

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chair, I missed a series of votes today because of a family medical issue. If I had been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 389; "yea" on rollcall No. 390; "yea" on rollcall No. 391; "yea" on rollcall No. 392; "no" on rollcall No. 393; "no" on rollcall No. 394; "yea" on rollcall No. 395; "yea" on rollcall No. 396; "yea" on rollcall No. 397; "yea" on rollcall No. 398; "no" on rollcall No. 399; "no" on rollcall No. 400; "yea" on rollcall No. 401; "yea" on rollcall No. 402; "yea" on rollcall No. 403; "yea" on rollcall No. 404; "yea" on rollcall No. 405; "no" on rollcall No. 406; "no" on rollcall No. 407; "no" on rollcall No. 408; and "yea" on rollcall No. 409.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 293

Resolved, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Ms. Hochul.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

Mr. ISSA. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on amendment No. 1 offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 771

Mr. CUELLAR. I ask for unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker, to remove Representative PAUL RYAN as a cosponsor of H.R. 771.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2055 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 288 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2055.

□ 1903

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. TERRY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it's my privilege to lay out tonight for the House for consideration the appropriations bill for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and my good friend, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP of Georgia, we have worked together arm in arm in this committee to make sure that our men and women in uniform have everything they need to do their job. We on this committee think of our job as sort of we are the peace of mind committee for the United States military and for our veterans.

We have an obligation—this Congress, this government—has an obligation, first and foremost, to provide for national security, to make sure that our men and women in uniform, not only here at home, but overseas have everything they need to do their job.

The scope of our appropriations bill today includes construction, of course, of all the military bases here and over-

seas. We have fully funded in this bill all the requests of the branches of the military for our men and women in uniform on active duty. We've made sure that all the retired men and women who have served this Nation have everything they need when it comes to the veterans hospitals, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We are laying before the House tonight this funding bill as a part of our Nation's—I like to also think of it as part of our Nation's mortgage payment. This is one of those fundamental obligations that we have as a government to ensure that our military is fully funded, that they've got the equipment, the logistical support that they need, that their housing is the best it can be, that the facilities are the very best they can be, and this is one of those fundamental obligations we've absolutely got to take care of.

In this bill and in all the appropriations bills, Mr. Chairman, brought to the House for the first time, this new Republican majority, this conservative majority is for the first time—money that has been left in the Treasury unspent in previous years was just spent in other areas. For the first time under the leadership of Chairman HAL ROGERS of Kentucky, our committee, the other subcommittees of Appropriations, are returning that unspent money back to taxpayers to reduce the deficit.

Chairman ROGERS and the leadership of the House, Speaker BOEHNER, our Republican leadership, all of us are committed to bringing the Nation—doing everything in our power to get back to a balanced budget, to reduce Federal spending, to bring the size, scope, and cost of the Federal Government back under control.

While we recognize our responsibility to fully fund and take care of our troops in military construction, of our veterans in the Veterans Affairs, the hospitals, through the VA, we also have an obligation to manage the money in a way that's fiscally sound. So we've identified rescissions, or returned money, unspent money, to taxpayers in the amount of \$388 million, again, the first time that's ever been done.

Again, these savings don't impact in any way the level of services provided to our veterans. This in no way impacts or diminishes the quality of housing or the level of service necessary on bases here in the United States or overseas.

But we have found savings. For example, \$100 million in planning and design money that was left over from previous years. We found \$100 million in unspent funds from the BRAC, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 1990, money that was unspent and left over. We found money in a variety of accounts, Mr. Chairman, that in previous years would have been respend elsewhere.

And under the leadership of Chairman ROGERS and Speaker BOEHNER, our